

Discipleship Class 11

Wednesday the 9th of July 2008

Bethesda Bible Church



Topic: Understanding The Law

Facilitator: Pastor Andrew Saka

Time 18h30

Why Did God Give The Law- Part 2?

Joh 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

The law was given by God through Moses, Why did He give them the law if He knew that they cannot keep or be justified by the law?

The law could not make them perfect and they couldn't be declared righteous by observing the law.

Heb 7:19 For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

Heb 10:1-4. For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? Because that the worshipers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

The law brought knowledge of sin and with the knowledge of sin comes sin consciousness and guilty feeling.

(Romans 3:20 AMP) For no person will be justified (made righteous, acquitted, and judged acceptable) in His sight by observing the works prescribed by the Law. For [the real function of] the Law is to make men recognize and be conscious of sin [not mere perception, but an acquaintance with sin which works toward repentance, faith, and holy character].

So ***[the real function of] the Law is to make men recognize and be conscious of sin.*** Can we then say then that the law was introduced only to make us feel guilty and conscious of sin? Not so, the law is good and holy; just like we need a mirror we need the law. ***(Romans 7:12 AMP) The Law therefore is holy, and [each] commandment is holy and just and good.***

Think about the law of electricity; if you touch a live high voltage wire, you die; whether you know it or not. So the law is there for our good, **BUT IT CANNOT MAKE US PERFECT!!**

(Romans 5:13 KJVR) (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

The law is a tutor or a school master, to take us to the real thing.

(Galatians 3:19-24 KJVR) Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one. Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the Scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

It is a shadow of the good things that were to come.

(Hebrews 10:1 AMP) FOR SINCE the Law has merely a rude outline (foreshadowing) of the good things to come--instead of fully expressing those things--it can never by offering the same sacrifices continually year after year make perfect those who approach [its altars].

There is something that the law cannot do. More like your mirror that can only show you what needs to be done to your face, but cannot clean you.

(Romans 8:3 KJVR) For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Therefore the law helps us to see how wretched and miserable we are so that we see the need of a Savior. It concludes that ***all have sinned and run short of the glory of God. Rom 3:23***

(Hebrews 8:6-10 KJVR) But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

There was a fault with the Old Testament, covenant or agreement. Where was the fault, with God or with man? ***For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant...***

The new covenant requires us to go to Him, that is Christ; and believe that we cannot be made perfect on our own on the basis of keeping the law; and allow Him to clean us with His precious blood.

Questions and answers that came from the study.

Question 1. Did people who kept the Law kept it without breaking any?

Answer. There was none according to ACTS. 15:6-10 and Romans 3:23.

Question 2. Why was Israel the chosen nation of God? Does God have favouritism?

Answer. This question was not discussed in detail, the class thought of keeping it for another time after we finish the subject we started today.

Question 3. Since we are now living under Grace, don't you think that it has led to the culture of not fearing God?

Answer. Not at all! 'Grace is based on a relationship between 'God the Father to his children, which is expressed in his love.'

'The Law was based on a relationship of 'A Holy unapproachable God to his sinful people.'

Question 4. Why are the Jews (Israelites) more prosperous or blessed than Christians?

Is there anything that they do that Christians don't do? Looking at the fact that they still don't recognise the first coming of Christ Jesus and that they are still under the Law, why are they still more blessed?

Answer. The Israelites are blessed because they follow the principles required in order for one to prosper. i.e. LUKE 6:38. II COR.9. They give freely give, not grudgingly. Other nationalities that follow the principles of God's Word are also blessed, e.g. Nigerian Christians and Muslims. They also believe in separation from those who are not of the same faith. II COR. 6:15-17. They do business together and support each other like a family does. The other supporting verse was from what Abram did before he became Abraham. God called him out of his family who used to worship many gods, to Himself {God} in order for the promise to be fulfilled. Genesis 12:1-end. On the other hand the questioner was corrected in that one has to know that no one is now under the Law we are all {Including the Israelites} under grace.

Because we are all under grace, the benefits of grace follow to all who practice the principles of God's Word and promises. The Israelites are blessed because they follow these promises. The promises of God are in Him yes and amen.

They are not blessed because they keep and still teach the Law. Grace gives freedom to all to who it is given whilst the Law had no freedom. 1 JOHN 2:15.

Jesus died for the entire world. John 1:12. But you only become God's child if you do what this verse says.

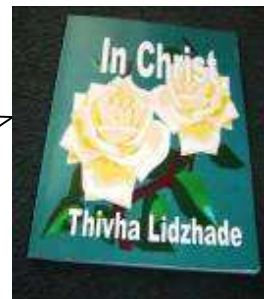
Our Subject for Next week is Grace. The class was told to go and research on it.

To be continued.....

Only

Recommended reading:
Hebrews, Romans, Galatians and I John

Read the book, **In Christ** by **Thivha Lidzhade**
Available from Bethesda Bookshop
011 839 2910, 072 717 0660 thivha@gmail.com



If you have not accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior and you would like to accept Him, pray this short prayer:

Heavenly Father, I heard Your Word.

I acknowledge that I am a sinner.

I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

I believe that He died for my sins.

I believe that He was made a curse so I could be the righteousness of God.

I confess with my mouth that He is Lord of my life.

Thank you Lord for making me Your child.

In Jesus' name. Amen!

**If you prayed this prayer, YOU ARE NOW A CHILD OF GOD!!!
Contact us soon or join a word-based church near you!!!!**